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Opposite-sex relationship questionnaire for female adolescents: development and psychometric evolution

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Abstract:

Aim: The goal of the present study is to adopt state-of-the-art techniques and standards to develop and evaluate a measure, called the opposite-sex relationship questionnaire for female adolescents (OSRQFA), to assess the reasons why adolescent girls would or would not develop, a relationship with an adolescent boy.

Methods: A mixed-method, sequential, exploratory design was adopted. In the qualitative phase, an in-depth interview approach was used to identify the properties and dimensions to be included in the OSRQFA. In the quantitative phase, the psychometric properties of the OSRQFA were evaluated according to face, content and construct validity. Reliability and stability were assessed with Cronbach's α and test-retest analysis, respectively.

Results: A preliminary questionnaire including 86 items which emerged from the qualitative phase of the study was designed. Based on the impact scores for face validity and the cutoff points for the content validity ratio (CVR) and content validity index (CVI), the preliminary questionnaire was reduced to 57 items. The Kaiser criteria (eigenvalues >1) and scree plot tests demonstrated that 21 items forming six factors, which were labeled 'innate predilection', 'abstinence', 'peer pressure', 'fear of the relationship consequences', 'family atmosphere' and 'risk taking', that accounted for an estimated 66.19% of variance provided an optimal fit with the data. These scales had acceptable levels of internal consistency ($\alpha = 0.822$) and stability ($r = 0.871$, $p < 0.001$).

Conclusion: The OSRQFA with 21 items and 6 factors demonstrated suitable validity and reliability in a sample of Iranian female adolescents. The OSRQFA's has good psychometric properties, and can be used by other researchers in future studies.

Keywords: adolescent, psychometric properties, relationship, reliability, validity

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Introduction

Relationships with the opposite-sex (OS) is a common feature of adolescent experience [1]. The prevalence of relationships with the OS globally has increased significantly in recent years [2]. According to theorists, relationships with the OS in adolescence are initiated because of the emerging needs in adolescence for romantic and sexual relations with peers, and close and intimate relations with individuals outside the family [3]. Sexual needs include feeling and expressing lust, desire and sex appeal as well as the possibility to participate in a sexual relationship with a partner [4]. Intimacy needs include high levels of emotional closeness, trust, mutual disclosure and understanding with a partner, and expressing romantic feelings [5], [6]. Desire for closeness with a peer is part of developing interdependence and autonomy [7]. According to Collin and Steinberg [8], these needs function to help partners connect with each other [9].

Many adolescents report that they spend a lot of time with the OS [10]. Having a relationship with a member of the OS promotes well-being in adolescents by facilitating identity development, the formation of close relationships with friends, autonomy, and educational achievement and career planning [11]. Also, these early OS

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